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*The Law Applied to Motor Vehicles.* By Charles J. Babbitt. 2d edition by Arthur W. Blakemore. Published by John Byrne & Co., Washington. 1917. pp. cxxvi, 1262.

The author of this book rightly considers that the law is based upon fundamental principles which are not new, and that the decisions now rendered with reference to the motor vehicle merely present the old principles of jurisprudence as applied to new circumstances. The author constantly keeps this in view and leads the legal mind to basic principles, at the same time keeping his work to date by recent decisions. For example, throughout the chapter on municipal powers, the fundamental principle that the state is an interested third party through which public welfare is expressed is adhered to in the exposition of the basis of automobile legislation.

The scope of the book—by scope I refer not alone to the variety of topical subdivisions, but to the range of state decisions—is broad. The book covers all the contractual subjects of the law in their application to automobiles, citing automobile cases where possible. Likewise, municipal law, tort, and criminal responsibility are dealt with. Pleading, practice in negligence cases, evidence and damages receive a limited space. The decisions are taken from all states. Viewing the matter from a provincial point, I should say there are a sufficient number of New York cases cited to render the book valuable to the New York lawyer. The statutory basis from which the author works in his treatment of automobile legislation, namely, the Massachusetts automobile legislation, in no wise renders the book of such a sectional character as to lessen its value.

Aside from a purely legal treatment of the automobile, the book is instructive through its forceful way of impressing upon the reader the completeness with which the automobile has entered into the social, business and every-day life of all people, be they automobile owners or not. Further, it clearly impresses one with the fact that man sometimes opposes and impedes progress by subtle reasoning and skilful utilization of precedents of the law.

The leading cases used are well chosen. The book does not present a panacea for all automobile difficulties, but is a valuable addition to a lawyer's library as a first aid. Its utility is enhanced by a good index.

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